(a) whether more time and labour is involved in the loading and unloading of the goods from the vessels at Indian ports, as compared to other ports of the world;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether any assessment regarding average time and labour used in the loading and unloading of the goods from the vessels at each port of the country, has been made;

(d) whether the Government have taken steps to improve the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and the time and labour likely to be saved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) It is very difficult to make a comparison of time and labour involved for loading and unloading of cargo in Indian and foreign ports in view of a number of factors which vary from port to port, such as the scale of facilities, vessel sizes, availability of other infrastructure, etc. However, there is scope for improvement in cargo handling productivity in Indian ports as compared to advanced foreign ports.

(c) Performance of ports is assessed in terms of specific port performance indicators like pre-berthing detention, turn round time and ship berth day output.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) An outlay of around Rs. 10,650 crores has been proposed in the 9th Five Year Plan for the replacement of old and obsolete assets, modernisation and additions. The port sector has been opened up for private sector participation to bring in the required financial and managerial resources. Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been introduced from 1991, which has brought about reduction in employee strength. The Wage settlement of 1994 between the port management and the labour federations provides for a productivity increase of 7% per annum with all the above measures. The productivity of cargo handling and unloading operations is expected to improve although it is difficult to quantify such improvement.

[English]

Upgradation of Minor Ports into Major Ports

1350. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade some intermediate and minor ports in the country into major ports during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a need to develop shipping in the country in order to promote international trade; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken various measures to develop the Indian Shipping Industry in order to promote international trade. Some of the salient features of these are as under:-

Automatic approval is now given for:

(i) Acquisition of all categories of ships except crude tankers and offshore supply vessels by private shipowning companies.

(ii) Acquisition of ships from an Indian Shipyard.

(iii) Acquisition of replacement tonnage.

(iv) Foreign investment upto 51% for mechaniced sailing vessels upto 10,000 Deed Weight Tonne.

K.V. at Jehanabad and Muzzafarnagar

1351. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SOHAN BEER :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Jehanabad in Bihar and in Muzzafarnagar of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) Proposals for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas including those at Jehanabad and Muzzafarnagar, during 1997-98, are under consideration of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

[Translation]

Misutilisation of Funds

1352. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities/money provided by the Government for Anganwadi and literacy programmes in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh are being misused;

(b) whether the funds are being misused openly, particularly in the districts of Purvanchal; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to prevent the misuse of Government funds ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) The projects are implemented by the State Governments and they are responsible to take action and report about any misuse that comes to their notice.

Specific report from the Government of Uttar Pradesh is being ascertained on the utilisation of funds in the Districts of Purvanchal in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Height of Narmada Dam

1353. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government realise that the reduction of Narmada Dam Height would affect irrigation in Gujarat substantially and there would be no irrigation at all in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government also aware that all the four participants States; Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and the country as a whole, would suffer heavily if the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam was reduced from 455 feet to 436 feet;

(c) whether it is a fact that there would also be a shortfall in energy share of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) In the event of lowering the planned full reservoir level of Sardar Sarovar Dam from 455 feet to 436 feet, the loss of live storage capacity is estimated to be around 1.5 million acre feet and the loss of power generation would be about 15% i.e. 225 Mega Watt. Thus, the reduction in planned height of Sardar Sarovar Dam would affect the irrigation and power benefits. However, it is not true that there would be no irrigation at all in Rajasthan.

(d) Height of Sardar Sarovar Dam has been determined by Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) under its Award and the validity period of the Award is upto 2024 A.D. (45 years after Gazette Notification in 1979).

U.G.C. Project in U.P.

1354. SHRI SOHAN BEER :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Projects of University Grants Commission implemented in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the details of the progress made so far in this regard;

(b) the details of the proposals sent by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to the University Grants Commission for its consideration; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Deficiency in Health Care

1355. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Authorities Admit Deficiency in Health Care" appearing in 'Hindu' dated January 13, 1997;

(b) if so, whether there are many deficiencies in the health care system of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to take concrete steps to remove these deficiencies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (e) The newspaper item has been noted. At the Fifth Conference of Central Council of Health & Family Welfare held from 8-10th January, 1997, a wide range of issues covering the entire health sector came up for discussion. The Council noted both achievements and shortfalls in the implementation of various health and family welfare programmes with a view to introducing mid-stream corrections after taking stock of the experiences gained by the States and Union Territories. After detailed deliberations, the Council *inter-alia* adopted a number of resolutions for effective implementation of on-going programmes, enforcing appropriate regulatory measures for private nursing homes and improving the quality of medical education and the health infrastructure. In the light of these recommendations appropriate action is to be initiated by all concerned.

To augment the resources for the health sector a number of new initiatives have been taken up like availing of external resources for various disease control programmes and strengthening of selected States Health Systems.

Sale of Kidney

1356. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that police have recently located a gang of kidney sellers; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to eliminate this immoral trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.